GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2137
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
BAN ON DIESEL RUN VEHICLES
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Diesel fumes may cause cancer: US report` as reported in the Hindustan Times dated September 5, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban plying of trucks/buses on diesel in the capital to protect the environment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) According to the report of the United States EnvironmentalProtection Agency (US EPA), exposure todiesel exhaust is likely to cause carcinogenic effects. However, the USEPA has also observed that the findings are subject to considerable uncertainties and should not be viewed as a definitive quantitative characterisation of risk.

(c) & (d) As per the Supreme Court directions, all the city diesel buses plying in capital have to be convertedto CNG mode and inter-state trucks not destined to the capital are not allowed to ply within the city limit. Plying of goods vehicles during day time is also banned.